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Dear Friends,

I am excited to announce that the Fulbright Program has received a record high of 560 applications for the Vietnamese Fulbright Student Program for the 2002-2003 academic year. As we enter the second round of the selection process we have over 240 candidates, compared to last year's 178. Candidates come from a wide variety of backgrounds and performed extremely well on the TOEFL: the mean was 560, with 39 candidates scoring over 600.

Simultaneously, we continue to recruit qualified candidates for the Vietnamese Fulbright Visiting Scholar Program. As always, we welcome your referrals and would greatly appreciate it if you can spread the word about the Program among your colleagues and contacts. Interested individuals can contact the Fulbright Office for an application form, available in both electronic and hard copy formats.

As we actively recruit new candidates for the Vietnamese Scholar Program, we welcome back previous year's scholars who have returned home to Vietnam. Scholars have expressed their appreciation to the Program for giving them the opportunity to research and study in the U.S. They have brought back with them extensive information from their research, which they hope to publish and present at the Second Annual Fulbright Conference.

Finally, I would like to welcome Ms. Jean Vander Woode, the new Assistant Public Affairs Officer, to the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy. Please introduce yourself next time you see her at a Fulbright function.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,



Tran Xuan Thao, Ph.D.
Director

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